



AGENDA
AUGUST 23, 2001
VESSEL SLIPS AT USX AND WSW

BACKGROUND:

June 12, 2000 Draft was submitted to USEPA and forwarded to IEPA to begin planning work.

August 25, 2000 Received formal PA Petition from The Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc - Keith Harley

October 2000 IEPA submitted workplan for sampling of both slips.

November 13, 2000 Field work conducted for WSW

April 2, 2001 Field work conducted for USX

December 21, 2000 Report from International Truck and Engine regarding the slips

September 14, 2001 letter sent to Keith Harley on status of investigation

August 9, 2001 Met with IEPA to discuss preliminary findings

Purpose of today's meeting is to get some idea as what IEPA's and USEPA's next steps will be. We are required to forward a copy of the findings to the Petitioner within one year of the receipt. We believe that it is necessary to respond to the petitioners with some definitive statement as to what our Agencies plan on doing next.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. CRC Attorney had some discussion with CoE regarding dredging of the areas
2. State continues working with USX/WSW to clean slips
3. Listing on the NPL
4. Handle as "Off the NPL" sites following Remedial Process
5. Start PRP searches, ownership of the slips has been identified as questionable.

Summary of Field Activities

Vessel Slip at USX

The site is approximately 567 acres, located on lake shore property in southeastern Chicago, Illinois. The area is relatively flat, and all of the structures on the property except for powerhouse number 5 and the original office building, have been razed. Lake Michigan forms the eastern border and provides access to two vessel slips used in the past by the facility. The site is situated in an industrial area that becomes a mixed commercial/residential area as you move westward away from the lake front. Of the 567 acres that currently belong to United States Steel, approximately 494 acres were originally part of the lake that have been filled in with primarily steel-mill slag. This facility has never had a coking operation and contamination associated with that type of operation should not be present at this location. Site operations began in 1882 and ended in 1992. In 1993, USX Corporation, the parent corporation of United States Steel, entered the Illinois EPA's Site Remediation Program (SRP). The primary focus of this effort centered on groundwater contamination and the surface water bodies that it directly affects. According to the legal description for this facility the north and south vessel slips do not belong to United States Steel and were excluded from the No Further Remediation Letter issued by the Illinois EPA. North Vessel Slip was used to receive raw materials and to transport finished steel products from the facility. In 1995, approximately 3,250 cubic yards of material were removed from this slip. Initially two samples were collected from the north slip, one was analyzed for TCLP lead and cadmium and the other for volatile organic compounds. The South Vessel Slip in 1995, had over 100 cubic yards of "non-hazardous" total petroleum hydrocarbons contaminated material removed from it. Three samples were collected from this slip and analyzed for volatile organic compounds. In June of 2000, members of the South Deering Community petitioned USEPA Region 5, to have a comprehensive contaminant characterization of the sediments at this site and the Wisconsin Steel Works performed. In April of 2001, The Illinois EPA, in response to this petition, collected 36 sediment samples from the two vessel slips at the USX South Works facility, Lake Michigan, and the Calumet River.

Vessel Slips at WSW

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (Illinois EPA's) Site Assessment Program was tasked by U.S. EPA to conduct the Preliminary Assessment to determine if contamination exists and its potential impact to the adjacent Calumet River. The WSW facility is located on the southeast side of Chicago, Illinois in Cook County. The property occupies approximately 176 acres and is bordered by a mixture of residential properties to the west, industrial areas to the north and south, and the Calumet River to the east. Currently, the WSW facility is active within Illinois EPA's Voluntary Program in order to address environmental concerns at the former WSW property. The participation within the voluntary program has not addressed any potential environmental concerns within the vessel slips. Two vessel slips are known as the north and south slips and are bordered by property once occupied by WSW facility. The north vessel slip is approximately 1200 feet long and 180 feet wide. The south vessel slips is approximately 950 feet long and 175 feet wide. A concrete and steel seawall borders both of the slips. Both vessel slips are exposed to the adjacent Calumet River along their eastern border. These vessel slips and Calumet River was the focus of this particular investigation. On November 13 – 14, 2000,

Illinois EPA personnel collected 22 sediment samples from the Calumet River and the north and south vessel slips adjacent to the former WSW facility. The samples were collected in order to determine if the vessel slips and Calumet River have been impacted by past activities at the WSW site. North Vessel Slip; ten samples from nine locations were collected during sampling activities. These samples were collected from the sediments within the north vessel slip using a stainless steel auger. Four locations contained levels of semi-volatile contaminants that exceeded a minimum of three times background concentrations. Three sample locations contained levels of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's) that significantly exceeded background levels. Varying levels of inorganic contaminants were also detected within the sediments of the north vessel slip. South Vessel Slip; six samples were collected from the sediments of the south vessel slips using a stainless steel auger and stainless steel ponar dredge. When compared to sediment background sample X201, all samples exhibited significant semi-volatile contamination. Five sample locations also detected elevated levels of PCB's while varying levels of inorganic contamination were also detected within the sediments of the south vessel slip. Calumet River; seven sediment samples were collected from the Calumet River. Samples X201 – X203 were collected from the river in order to determine if upgradient locations may not have been impacted by past activities of the WSW site. Samples X213 – X222 indicated that levels of semi-volatile, PCB, and inorganic contamination exist within the sediment of the Calumet River downgradient from the former WSW facility.

→ sampled from soft black silty material
average thickness 2-3 ft.

- above Ontario standards & EPA Region V benchmarks
- about 15 ft depth in slips

North Vessel slip 28 ft depth

South " " 26/27 ft